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21171 7590 04/30/2008

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

CORRIELUS, JEAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2162

DATE MAILED: 04/30/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/934,582

08/23/2001

Doreen D. Jiang

782.1115

7884

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM FOR SYNCHRONIZING VOICE MESSAGING SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	07/30/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

21171 7590 04/30/2008

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/934,582 08/23/2001 Doreen D. Jiang 782.1115 7884

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM FOR SYNCHRONIZING VOICE MESSAGING SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1440 \$300 \$0 \$1740 07/30/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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CORRIELUS, JEAN M 2162 707-203000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

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CORRIELUS, JEAN M

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 303 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 303 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/934,582

Examiner

Jean M. Corrielus

Applicant(s)

JIANG ET AL.

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on March 27, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 9-10, 12-15, 17-22, 24-26 and 28 renumbered as 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Jean M Corrielus/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on March 22, 2008, in which claims 1-28 are presented for further examination.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Temnit Afework (Reg. No. 58,202) on April 28, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically updating a shared central subscriber directory used over a network by different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route subscriber messages, comprising:

generating an update request in response to an event that changes voice messaging subscriber information in a subscriber database of a voice messaging system based on a determination that said event is one of predetermined events requiring an update across the telephony messaging systems;

appending the update request generated to a queue and reading each update request from the queue on a first-in first-out basis; and

automatically updating the shared central subscriber directory including corresponding voice messaging subscriber information based on the update request, where the updated shared central subscriber directory is used by the different autonomous telephony messaging systems to route subscriber voice messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically updating a shared central subscriber directory server used over a network by different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route voice subscriber messages, comprising:

generating an update request for updating the shared subscriber directory server when one of subscriber actions and administrator actions update voice messaging subscriber information in a database of one of the voice messaging systems, said generating being based on a determination that one of the subscriber actions and the administrator actions matches predetermined events requiring an update across the voice messaging systems, wherein one of subscriber actions and administrator actions comprises one of creating a message box, deleting a message box, modifying a message box, suspending a message box, reinstating a message box, reinitializing a message box, and migrating a message box from a first voice messaging system to a second voice messaging system;

appending, when the update request is generated, the update request to a queue managed by an update server and in a same order as one of corresponding subscriber actions and corresponding administrator actions occur;

reading the update requests from the queue on a first-in first-out basis;

sending the update requests to the shared subscriber directory server using one of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol and X.500 protocol;

refreshing subscriber information in the update requests, after said reading and before said sending, in accordance with current corresponding subscriber information in the voice messaging system, when the update requests are one of expired and in a queue not primarily associated with the voice messaging system having the subscriber information; and

automatically updating the shared subscriber directory server in real-time based on the update request whereby an updated shared central subscriber directory of said server is used by the different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route voice subscriber messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors.

8. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled)

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22. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically updating a shared subscriber directory used by different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route voice subscriber messaging, comprising:

generating, responsive to a subscriber telephone call, an update request for updating the shared subscriber directory server when one of subscriber actions and administrator actions update voice messaging subscriber information in the voice messaging system, said generating being based on a determination that one of the subscriber actions and the administrator actions matches predetermined events requiring an update across the voice messaging system, wherein one of subscriber actions and administrator actions comprises one of creating a message box, deleting a message box, modifying a message box, suspending a message box, reinstating a message box, reinitializing a message box, and migrating a message box from a first voice messaging system to a second voice messaging system;

appending, the update request to a queue managed by an update server and in a same order as one of corresponding subscriber actions and corresponding administrator actions occur;

reading, with the update server, the update requests from the queue on a first-in first-out basis;

~~refreshing, with the update server, voice messaging subscriber information in the update requests, after said reading and before said sending, in accordance with current corresponding voice messaging subscriber information in the voice messaging system, when the update requests are one of expired and in a queue not primarily associated with the voice messaging system having the voice messaging subscriber information;~~

sending the update requests from the update server to the shared subscriber directory server using Lightweight Directory Access Protocol;

refreshing, with the update server, voice messaging subscriber information in the update requests, after said reading and before said sending, in accordance with current corresponding voice messaging subscriber information in the voice messaging system, when the update requests are one of expired and in a queue not primarily associated with the voice messaging system having the voice messaging subscriber information; and

automatically updating the shared subscriber directory server in real-time based on the update request and using an updated shared central subscriber directory of said server to route voice subscriber messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically updating a central subscriber directory used over a network by different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route subscriber messages, comprising:

a processor generating an update request in response to an event that changes voice messaging subscriber information in a subscriber database of one of the voice messaging systems, the update request being generated based on a determination that the event is one of predetermined events requiring an update across the telephony voice messaging systems; and

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a database comprising the central subscriber directory having the voice messaging subscriber information, where the ~~database~~ central subscriber directory is automatically updated ~~by said control unit~~ by appending the update request generated to a queue and reading each update request from the queue on a first-in first-out basis, whereby the changed voice messaging subscriber information of the central subscriber directory is used by ~~each of the~~ different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route subscriber voice messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically updating a shared subscriber directory server used over a network by different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route subscriber voice messages, comprising:

a processor generating an update request for updating the shared subscriber directory server when one of subscriber actions and administrator actions update voice messaging subscriber information in the voice messaging system, where the update request is sent when generated and is based on a determination that one of the subscriber actions and the administrator actions matches predetermined events requiring an update across the telephony voice messaging systems, wherein one of subscriber actions and administrator actions comprises one of creating a message box, deleting a message box, modifying a message box, suspending a message box, reinstating a message box, reinitializing a message box, and migrating a message box from a first voice messaging system to a second voice messaging system;

an update server receiving the update request and appending the update request to a queue managed by said update server in a same order as one of corresponding subscriber actions

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and corresponding administrator actions occur, said update server reading the update requests from the queue on a first-in first-out basis and sending the update requests to the shared subscriber directory server; and

a shared subscriber directory server automatically updating a voice messaging subscriber database in real-time based on the update request, whereby the updated voice messaging subscriber information of said shared subscriber directory server is used by ~~each of the~~ different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route subscriber voice messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium having a instructions stored therein for automatically updating a voice messaging subscriber directory used to route subscriber messages across different autonomous telephone voice messaging systems, comprising:

generating an update request responsive to a voice messaging subscriber information change event in any of plural voice messaging subscriber information databases of respective autonomous voice messaging systems in response to a determination that said event is one of predetermined events requiring an update across the voice messaging systems;

appending the update request generated to a queue and reading each update request from the queue on a first-in first-out basis; and

automatically updating a shared centralized subscriber directory including corresponding voice messaging subscriber information based on the update request and using the updated

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shared centralized subscriber directory to route subscriber voice messages ~~by the~~ from different autonomous telephone voice messaging systems to exchange messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors.

27. (Cancelled)

28, (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of automatically updating a shared directory used by different autonomous telephony voice messaging systems to route voice messages, comprising:

receiving a request for changing voice messaging subscriber information from a corresponding subscriber, said voice messaging subscriber information being stored in a shared directory used by ~~the~~ different autonomous telephony messaging systems;

appending the update request generated to a queue and reading each update request from the queue on a first-in-first-out basis; and

automatically updating the shared directory including the voice messaging subscriber information across each of the telephony messaging systems based on the request, wherein the updated shared central subscriber directory is used by different autonomous telephony messaging systems to route subscriber voice messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-15, 17-22, 24-26 and 28 are allowable in light of the applicants' arguments and in light of the prior art made of record.

Reasons for Indicating Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Upon searching a variety of databases, the examiner respectfully submits that “automatically updating the shared central subscriber directory including corresponding voice messaging subscriber information based on the update request, where the updated shared central subscriber directory is used by the different autonomous telephony messaging systems to route subscriber voice messages, wherein the telephony voice messages systems are maintained by multiple vendors” in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims are not taught nor suggested by the prior art of record (PTO-892 and 1449). Therefore, all pending claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-15, 17-22, 24-26 and 28 are hereby allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean M. Corrielus whose telephone number is (571) 272-4032. The examiner can normally be reached on 10 hours shift.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2162

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jean M Corrielus/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162

May 2, 2008